

GLENN W. PFEIL

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Our Highways Threatened

Legislators, whether in Sacramento, Albany, or Washington, D. C., are always on the alert for sources of funds which can be tapped for their favorite spending programs.

Right now, the Sacramento specie of legislator is casting longing eyes at the half-billion-dollar budget of the California Highway Commission, heretofore sacrosanct and untouchable by the legislators.

Hearings are in progress which would determine if the solons should have a larger voice in expenditures of this juicy plum.

California is unique in its handling of these funds. Monies for our state highways and freeways comes from the motorists in the form of motor vehicle use taxes and taxes on gasoline sold in the state.

The money is set aside solely for highway purposes, and may not be siphoned off for other projects.

The threat to the highway fund has become so eminent that a group of prominent Californians, including Publisher Robert E. McClure of the Santa Monica Evening Outlook and a former member of the Highway Commission, has formed a committee to urge continuation of the state's highway program.

In announcing formation of the group recently, McClure spoke out against groups which were "trying to siphon off highway construction funds for other forms of transportation."

We wish Mr. McClure and his fellow Californians success. We, too, believe the use of these funds for other than adequate highways for California's motorists would not be in the best interest of the state. It certainly wouldn't be in the best interest of its driving public.

Opinions of Others

"The nondemocratic nations of the world can talk if they want to about collectivism, agrarian reform and the like, there is no substitute for individual initiative and motivation. We need only to compare the farm production figures . . . of the nation with those of Cuba, of Red China, and of Russia, to prove this fact."—Alma (Mich.) Record.

Mailbox

Editor, Press-Herald. The headline news in the Sept. 27 edition is "news" about a number of home burglaries in Torrance — All American city.

Stems the only way public officials can think of to hold crime in check is to put more police on public payroll, build more million-dollar courthouses, hire more judges and court officials, build bigger and better jails, and keep convicted criminals under house arrest and well-fed at a cost of millions of dollars additional expense to the taxpayers.

We need some sensible, progressive, pioneering thinking and action to combat the ever increase of crime and crime costs. We need to deal with criminals as advocated in the Old Testament of the Bible instead of letting party-waist, criminal-coddling, collegiate sociologists, psychologists, and self-styled criminologists run our prisons and jails.

We need to do this as the Bible recommends: make the way of the criminal hard, so hard that when he serves one sentence, he will prefer to work and earn an honest living instead of continuing to make crime pay.

In southern chain-gang states, very few convicted criminals who served as much as 11 months in a chain gang continued to try to make crime pay in a chain-gang state. They either went straight north or went west to California where they would get more consideration from law enforcement officials than do the taxpayers.

When a person is convicted of a felony, he is disenfranchised until such a time as his citizenship is restored. Taxpayers need to demand of their state legislators that additional disenfranchisement laws be passed to make it illegal for a person convicted of a misdemeanor theft (so-called petty theft), public drunkenness, or any dishonest or immoral act to vote for a period of five years from date of such conviction.

Also, in my opinion, whenever a person between the

ages of 21 and 60 years goes on county relief, he or she should not be allowed to vote for so long as supported by the taxpayers on county relief.

I would like to hear from taxpayers as to whether they will help support a demand for such a law. At present thousands of ex-misdemeanor thieves, drunkards, skidrow bums, and vagrants, the boozers out of the Sheriff's so-called honor farm (a county club operated at the taxpayers' expense for the benefit of worthless boozers) can all vote and cancel out the votes of taxpayers who want to hold the line on crime and ever-increasing taxes.

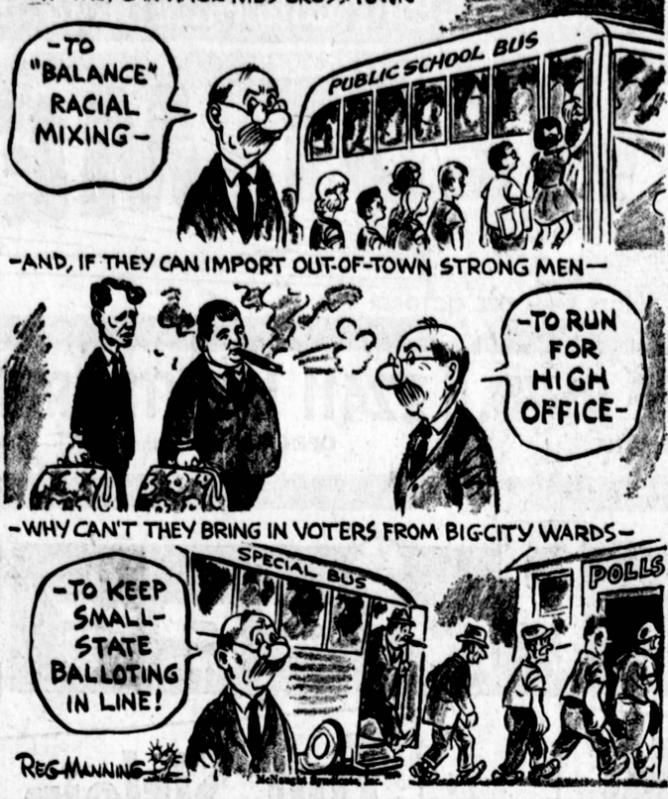
Let me know how you stand on these matters. WEAVER H. JONES 1318 W. 221st St., Torrance

I wish to express my personal appreciation to you and your fine staff for the coverage that you gave us during this period of our celebration of our Fiftieth Anniversary as a church in the city of Torrance. We know that news is always appreciated by the people in our community and having as large a membership as our church does have at its juncture in its history, we appreciate the notices given to us and the widespread publicity that you have shared with us in reaching out to touch the lives of our community.

We hope to secure and train an adequate publicity representative for the First Baptist Church of Torrance, so that we might convey adequate news to you for your church page. I realize that consistent reporting is really a necessity to build the type of church page that your paper is worthy of and we shall do our part to endeavor to get the proper news in a proper way to your office or your church editor.

Again may I express my personal appreciation and speak on behalf of our congregation a word of thanks for the kindness extended to us during this time of our joyous celebration. ROBERT H. COBURN, Pastor

IF THEY CAN HAUL KIDS 'CROSS-TOWN —



-AND, IF THEY CAN IMPORT OUT-OF-TOWN STRONG MEN—

-TO RUN FOR HIGH OFFICE—

-WHY CAN'T THEY BRING IN VOTERS FROM BIG-CITY WARDS—

-TO KEEP SMALL-STATE BALLOTING IN LINE!

REG-MANNING

HERE AND THERE by Royce Brier

Did The Russians Really Discover North America?

A gentleman named Bronson Feldman, Philadelphia, provides some diversion this afternoon, though not diversion necessarily trivial.

You recall the Russians a few years ago were always saying the Russians were first in everything — light bulbs, locomotives, even perhaps in the discovery of America. Couldn't the Norsemen be of Russian stock?

But that was Joe Stalin's schoolboy instinct, and you don't hear so much of it now because Comrade Khrushchev has other interest to pursue, one being his grim quarrel with the Peking mob.

Well, in May, 'Atlas' magazine, which deals in foreign comment, printed a little paragraph from Moscow: "It cannot but cause surprise that in the People's Republic in recent years the thesis, unconfirmed by facts, has been advanced concerning China's claim to the discovery of America, a claim originally put forward in 1913 by the Chinese bourgeois nationalist press."

Soviet historians responsible for this item should have been warned by the last clause, because if the Chinese bourgeois were claiming discovery of America 51 years ago, it wasn't a bright saying by Comrade Mao. And why write out of Moscow if you can't put the whammy on Comrade Mao?

Anyway, Mr. Feldman, boldly aware he is on the wrong side of the Great Schism, writes in the current 'Atlas': ". . . the fact that China's claim to the discovery of America is confirmed by facts originally put forward by Karl Friedrich Neumann's work on the wanderings of Chinese Buddhist monks centuries before Columbus. . . ." He adds that Neumann's work was published in Leipzig in 1833, and in translation in London, 1875, under the title: 'Fusang; or the Discovery of America by Chinese Buddhist Priests in the Fifth Century.'

The writer is unlikely to ever read Herr Neumann's book, but will hand it to him as a digging historian of the obscure, willing to leave such blatant folk as Napoleon and Caesar, not to mention Christopher Columbus, to history, itself.

So here is an elegant new thought which should engage us in the West, when you imagine those priests landing here in their little junks 1,500 years ago to convert the savage Red men. It fair makes a writer of television Westerns write to think he had overlooked some small pocket of Buddhist Indians for a new gimmick in the everlasting war between the Injuns and the U. S. Cavalry. It may be fortunate, of course, the Buddhists failed, else the Spanish might never have survived in California, and where would the California culture be then, pray?

As for Columbus and the Norsemen, you can only say the Americas are of such magnitude on the globe, that the Europeans were downright dumb to have got here so late. Finally, Mr. Feldman, this columnist will get no thanks for their "imperialist" aid to Comrade Mao.

Books by William Hogan

Candy-Box View of Swiss Shattered in This Study

The candy-box image of Switzerland as a carefree Hansel and Gretel world is shattered in a yodel of abrasive criticism by Herbert Kuby in a collection of travel pieces titled "At Large." This is an introspective, lyrical, often stirring mixture by an observer who won a National Book Award several years ago for his "An American in Italy."

His entries on Switzerland here are far less an example of an author's love affair with a people than his Italian book was. Indeed, the Swiss are basically unhappy, Kuby tells us; they have one of the top suicide rates in Europe as well as an abnormal incidence of mental disturbances. They are overly involved with money (mostly other people's). City men are notoriously "lecherous." And one psychologist, in attempting to explain the massive Swiss boredom, suggested: "We have no national crime on which to externalize our emotions."

Well, a fourth generation American from New Glarus, Wis., Kuby has family roots in Glarus, Switzerland. Technically this means he still holds Swiss citizenship. But the village of Glarus left him as cold as did Zurich, the "dual city," of which he observes: "The lively counterpoint

AFTER HOURS by John Morley

Some Personal Views on The Big Scene: Politics

NEW YORK CITY — It may seem far-fetched to some people, but the press room around political headquarters in Texas keep asking "Why didn't President Johnson start his 'War on Poverty' on Lady Bird's farms?"

One of the reasons for so much foreign aid is that it enables hundreds of politicians to get out of town on "inspection junkets."

Senator Humphrey keeps referring to Senator Goldwater as the "temporary spokesman of the Republican Party." The Congressional Quarterly poll last July picked Humphrey as the strongest running mate for President Johnson—and also picked Senator Goldwater as the strongest Republican for the presidency, two to one. Humphrey used his own popularity statistic in his campaign for the vice-presidency, but ignores the same Congressional poll which picked Senator Goldwater as the undisputed leader of his party.

In the 1960 Democrat convention in Los Angeles Johnson referred to John Kennedy as "the boy in diapers," to Robert Kennedy as "the political Elvis Presley," and said of Humphrey "He could have won in West Virginia if he had changed his first name."

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stealing the spotlight in this campaign. Much of Johnson's popularity stems from opposition to Goldwater. Few will vote for Goldwater because they disapprove of Johnson. Goldwater has color. Johnson is a faded gray, as political images go. He is the man in the blue, ill-fitting suit, except for the fact that he is President.

The campaign of 1964 is beginning to look more like Goldwater, the man, than conservatism as a cause by itself. It will be Goldwater, win or lose, and not the conservative cause.

Polis indicate that 90 per cent of our Negro citizens favor Johnson, which is probably true. But such polls are misleading, for they give the impression that these percentages actually vote on election day.

This reporter began covering politics among the corruption-ridden wards of Cook County, Illinois, some 30 years ago. Those were the days of Republican bossism under Big Bill Thompson and Democrat bossism under Tony Cermak, who was killed riding with Roosevelt in Miami Beach. It was also the hey-day of Al Capone, who contributed generously to both political bosses.

As the foreign-born Democrat bosses took over control and they have held it ever since. The pattern has been the same in most big cities, coast to coast.

Today these big city Democrat precinct bosses can deliver the vote of the foreign-born, minorities, low income groups, union labor, and so on, which usually overwhelms the better informed voters of the rest of their states.

These less informed, less literate, often unemployed and on-relief millions represent individual votes the same as their opposites. Under the present outmoded electoral college system, a majority of one vote gives a party all of the electoral votes of the state and also gives the heavily populated cities a formidable advantage.

An Eisenhower can overcome this advantage, but otherwise it will always be an uphill fight for the Republicans.

Elections in recent years under our electoral college system, with few exceptions, have not represented a mandate of our people, but a political phenomenon which by accident, but mostly by connivance, has misused the democratic process to the detriment of democracy.

Our Man Hoppe

No Crisis Is Gravest Crisis

By Arthur Hoppe

At this very minute in Vietnam, fellow Americans, we face the gravest crisis we have ever faced in Vietnam: Namely, the end of the Vietnam crisis.

Every press dispatch reports the situation deteriorating hourly. Every expert is talking gloomily of neutralization—a move which would spell the doom of the Vietnam Crisis as we have known it and loved it and grown up with it.

So desperate is its plight that our worried leaders have been taking firm stands. At almost the same hour the State Department was firmly threatening to invade North Vietnam, President Johnson was firmly pledging that we never would. Which is twice as many firm stands as our leaders usually take in Vietnamese crises. All we can do now is hope.

Nor is their concern misplaced. For, deep down, it has proved itself a wonderful, wonderful crisis with many, many shining qualities.

Firstly, it was no Johnnie-come-lately crisis. French by birth and American by adoption, it was 18 years old, a full-grown crisis by any standard. And, as such, it had woven itself into the fabric of our lives.

Who among us will not feel a loss on falling to stumble across such sentences in his daily paper as: "General Hoo Dat Don Dar apparently crushed a seeming revolt by mountain tribesmen believed led by General Hoo Dat Dar, but was himself purportedly overthrown by a shaky coalition to have the powerful support of the supposedly secret Kum Kwat Set, though angered by alleged favoritism shown Hindu Churcs Episcopals or, perhaps Rosicrusian factions."

Can crossword puzzles fill such a gap? Moreover, it was an ideal crisis geographically. For Vietnam is a small country. And while we were able to jam 18,000 U.S. troops into it, there was clearly no room for a full-scale war. Secondly, it was handy to the little-used Gulf of Tonkin. And if our destroyers are going to run around shooting up unidentified objects at night, surely the Gulf of Tonkin is much, much more suitable than, say, the Hudson River. And lastly, of course, Vietnam is ideal because it is far, far away.

But most important, the Vietnam Crisis preserved world peace. After all, world leaders and military strategists have to think about something. It's their job. And without Vietnam to occupy them, who knows where their attentions might have turned? Thank heavens, we can all say for Vietnam.

True, some may contend that, wonderful as it was, the Vietnam crisis was a little hard on the Vietnamese — what with their being bombed, strafed, sprayed and whatnot for the past 18 years. But it drew them out of their bucolic apathy and into the 20th Century. It brought them political awareness. It enriched their beloved leaders. And, when our planes dove on them, they could always take heart in the knowledge that they were doing their part to preserve world peace.

But let us not abandon hope. Let us remember that Mr. Johnson and all his advisers are struggling desperately in these grim hours to keep some faint fluttering of life alive. Somehow. And I, for one, have faith that somehow they will. Clear through November 3.

Republican strategy is to write off New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and to fight hard for California, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan. Republicans won Florida, Tennessee and Virginia in 1960 — and all the Middle West except Illinois, which they lost by only 8858 votes.

They can pick up 75 of the South's electoral votes. But if Goldwater takes California and Ohio, as Nixon did, it will be a photo finish, regardless of the polls.

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